

REMARKS

Applicants are submitting this amendment in an earnest effort to bring this application to issue without delay.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's allowance of claims 23 through 26 and the indication that claims 5, 9, 10 and 13 are directed to allowable subject matter, and that these claims stand rejected for dependence on a rejected base claim.

Applicants have therefore canceled claim 5 and limited claim 1 to the subject matter of claim 5, that is the compound promoting azomethine formation has been limited to 5-hydroxymethyl-furfural.

Applicants have amended claims 9, 14 and 15 to make it clear that these claims are now also limited to 5-hydroxymethyl-furfural as the compound promoting azomethine formation.

Applicants believe that all claims now presented are in condition for allowance and Applicants earnestly solicit a response to that effect.

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